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IN ACTION COMICS
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BY MICHELINIE, GRUMMETT & RODIER

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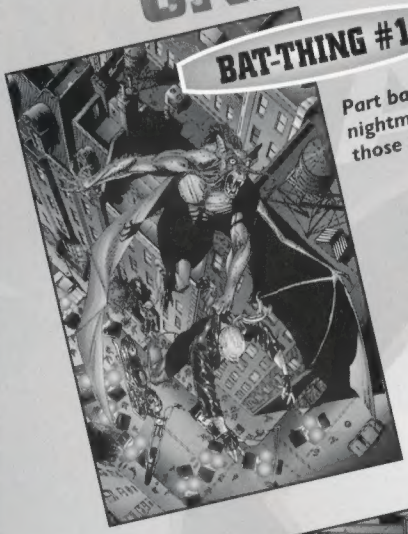
BAT-THING #1

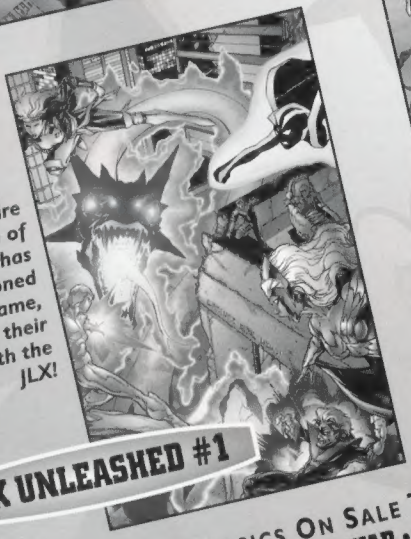


Part bat. Part thing. The Bat-Thing is a winged nightmare, exacting a terrible revenge on those responsible for his... ITS origin!

SPIDER-BOY TEAM-UP #1

It was only a matter of time! The Arach-Kid meets those titanic teens of tomorrow—The Legion of Galactic Guardians of 2099!

JLX UNLEASHED #1



The Hellfire League of Injustice has just summoned Fin Fang Flame, reigniting their war with the JLX!

DON'T MISS THESE 9 SURE-FIRE CLASSICS ON SALE THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL!

• GENERATION HEX • SUPER-SOLDIER: MAN OF WAR • IRON LANTERN •
• CHALLENGERS OF THE FANTASTIC • THORION OF THE NEW ASGODS •
• LOBO THE DUCK • MAGNETIC MEN FEATURING MAGNETO •
• THE DARK CLAW ADVENTURES • • THE EXCITING X-PATROL •

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HE'S WALKED THE ANTARCTIC WASTES FOR HOURS, DRIVEN BY A FORCE HE CANNOT COMPREHEND.
SLOGGING THROUGH HIP-DEEP SNOW, BATTLING WINDS LIKE HAMMERING HANDS--
--HE FEELS NO COLD, NO HINT OF FATIGUE.
HE FEELS ONLY NECESSITY; THE POWERFUL, PRIMAL PULL...
...OF NEED!
I ADMIT IT, MARSTEN, I'M JEALOUS.
THAT I'M ACCOMPANYING THESE CORE SAMPLES TO THE METROPOLIS MUSEUM?
I HAVE TO, AMOS. THE FEE THE MUSEUM PAYS IS PART OF OUR FUNDING.
I KNOW, BUT ENERGY RESEARCH LOSES A BIT OF ITS CHARM AFTER THE FOURTEENTH MONTH.
WE HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPEN SINCE THAT VISIT FROM--
--SUPERMAN?*
KE-RAK!
*IN ACTION #729.

the SAVING SKULL

DAVID MICHELINIE – writer
TOM GRUMMETT & DENIS RODIER
artists
BILL OAKLEY – letterer
GLENN WHITMORE – colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
color separations
MIKE McAVENNIE
associate editor
JOEY CAVALIERI – editor

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

I-IS THAT--?

IT CAN'T BE--!

SUPERMAN?!? A-ARE YOU--

NO! STAY BACK!

THE SITUATION COULD STILL BE DANGEROUS!

"DANGEROUS?" THAT DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT!

SECONDS AGO, I WAS FIGHTING THE ATOMIC SKULL IN METROPOLIS--

--UNTIL AN ENERGY SURGE LITERALLY BLEW ME APART!

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I FELT MYSELF DISPERSE... DRIFTING... AND I COULDN'T DO A BLASTED THING ABOUT IT!
THEN--
--I REMEMBERED HOW THESE MACHINES WERE DESIGNED TO FOCUS ENERGY, AND SUDDENLY... I WAS HERE!
DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE MACHINES OR MY MIND, BUT I'M SOLID AGAIN!
BUT--THE ATOMIC SKULL...!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO METROPOLIS!
WE'RE HEADED THAT WAY, UH... SUPERMAN. WANT A LIFT?
THANKS, BUT AN AIRPLANE WOULD BE TOO SLOW.
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE WORDS THESE CREATURES SPEAK, BUT LOOKING AT THE FIGURE OF ROILING ENERGY, HE KNOWS ONE THING AS BOLD AS TRUTH:
HE HAS FOUND THE OBJECT OF HIS NEED!
CONTROL OF WHATEVER'S HAPPENED TO MY POWERS SEEMS LINKED TO CONCENTRATION.
IF I CAN JUST FOCUS MY WILL...!
HOLY--!

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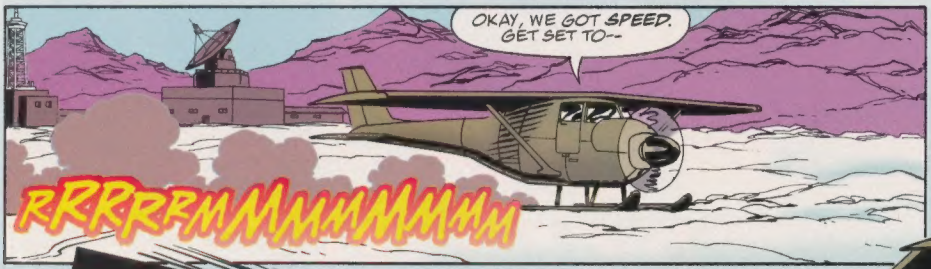
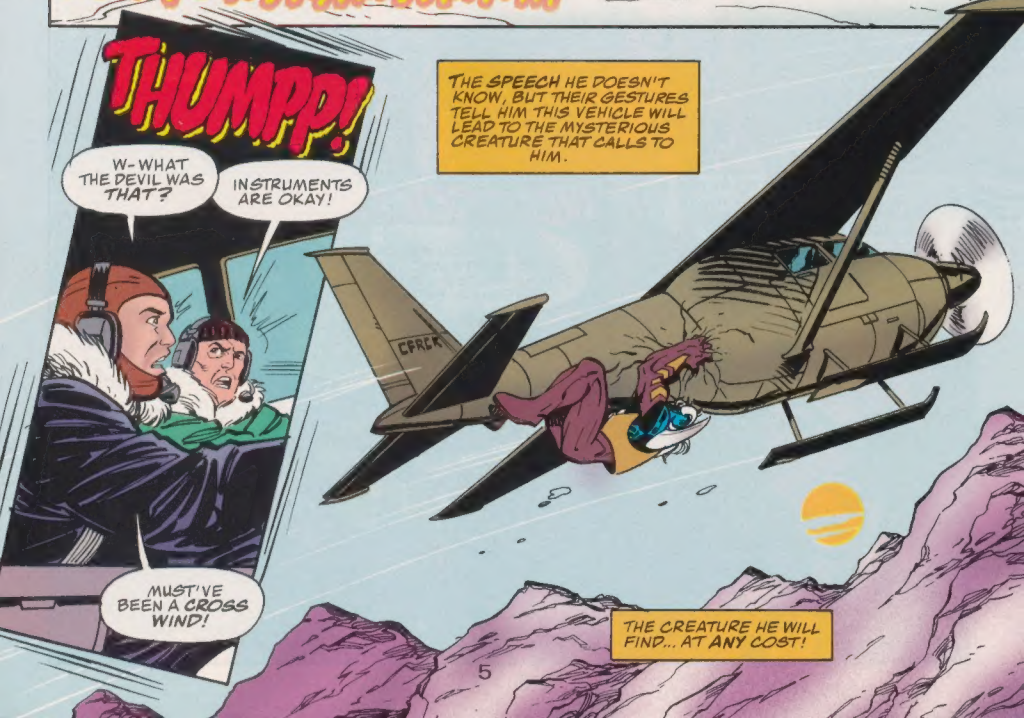
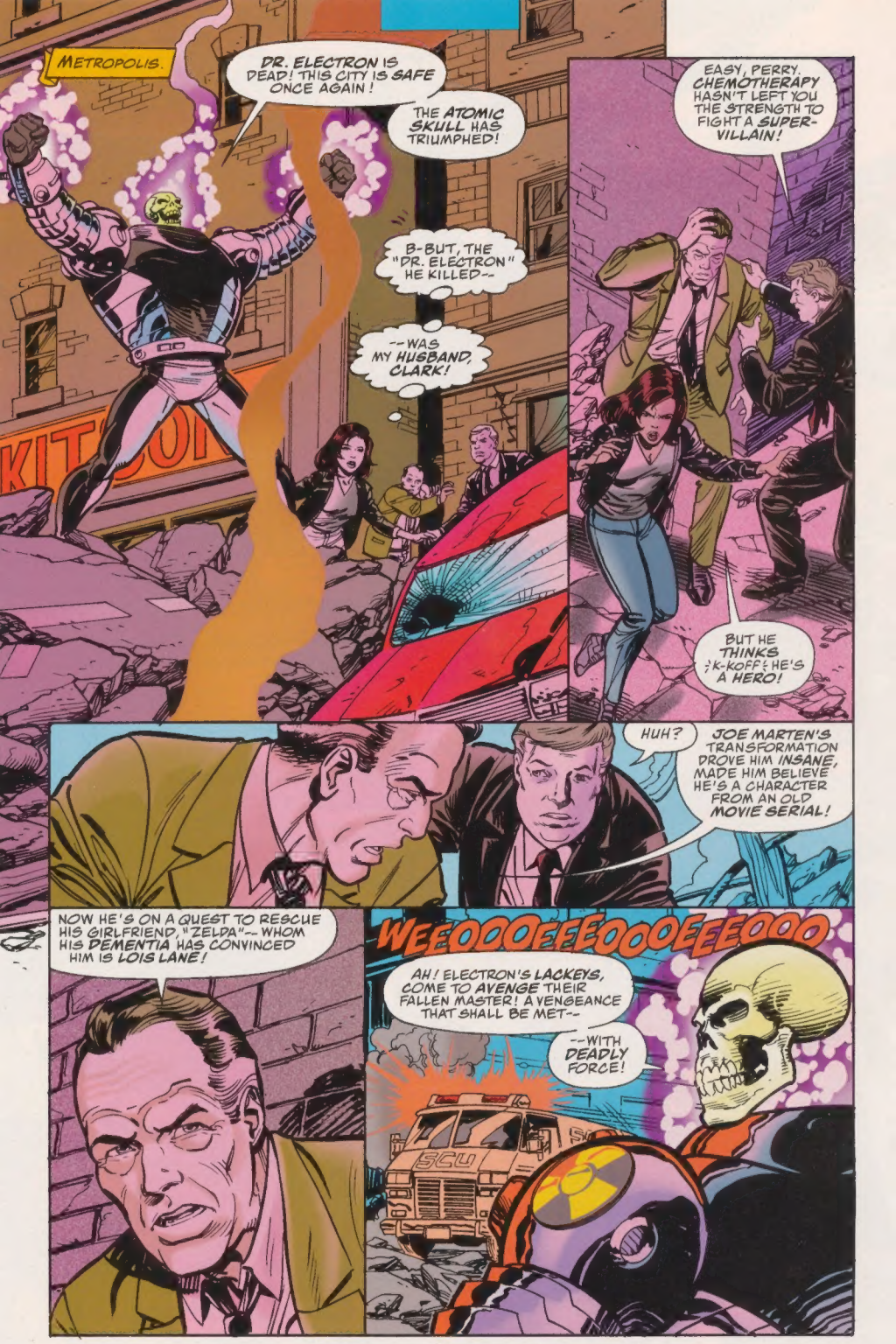
KE-E-RAK!

I-UP G-GUESS WE SHOULD WRITE UP A REPORT ABOUT THIS...!
I'LL FAX YOU MY PART FROM METROPOLIS, AMOS. STORM FRONT'S MOVING IN, AND OUR TAKE-OFF WINDOW'S ABOUT TO CLOSE!


OKAY, WE GOT SPEED. GET SET TO--
RRRRRMMMMMMMM


THUMPP!
W-WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT?
INSTRUMENTS ARE OKAY!
MUST'VE BEEN A CROSS WIND!
THE SPEECH HE DOESN'T KNOW, BUT THEIR GESTURES TELL HIM THIS VEHICLE WILL LEAD TO THE MYSTERIOUS CREATURE THAT CALLS TO HIM.
CRACK
THE CREATURE HE WILL FIND... AT ANY COST!


METROPOLIS.
DR. ELECTRON IS DEAD! THIS CITY IS SAFE ONCE AGAIN!
THE ATOMIC SKULL HAS TRIUMPHED!
B-BUT, THE "DR. ELECTRON" HE KILLED--
--WAS MY HUSBAND, CLARK!
EASY, PERRY. CHEMOTHERAPY HASN'T LEFT YOU THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT A SUPER-VILLAIN!
BUT HE THINKS :K-KOFF: HE'S A HERO!
HUH?
JOE MARTEN'S TRANSFORMATION DROVE HIM INSANE, MADE HIM BELIEVE HE'S A CHARACTER FROM AN OLD MOVIE SERIAL!
NOW HE'S ON A QUEST TO RESCUE HIS GIRLFRIEND, "ZELDA"-- WHOM HIS DEMENTIA HAS CONVINCED HIM IS LOIS LANE!
WEEOOOEEEOOOEEEOOO
AH! ELECTRON'S LACKEYS, COME TO AVENGE THEIR FALLEN MASTER! A VENGEANCE THAT SHALL BE MET--
--WITH DEADLY FORCE!
SCU

WHILE IN QUEENSLAND PARK...
HE SHOOTS! HE SCO--
KE-RAK!
QUEENSLAND PARK? I TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES IN A HEART-BEAT!
BUT I'M STILL NOT WHERE I NEED TO BE! BLAST!
HAVE TO PICTURE MIDTOWN IN MY MIND! THEN CONCENTRATE!
FOCUS!
KE-RAK!
OOOOOKAY.

I'M WORRIED SICK ABOUT CLARK--
--BUT IF SOMEONE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING, THERE'S GOING TO BE A BLOODBATH!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THAT "SOMEONE" HAS TO BE ME!
DARLING! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
ZELDA?
YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM ELECTRON'S BRAIN-WASHING? YOU KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE?
YES, MY LOVE-- AT LAST!
BUT PLEASE GET ME AWAY FROM HERE! I'M SO FRIGHTENED!
OF COURSE, ZELDA. FOR YOU--
--ANYTHING!
THINK WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT SUPERMAN, PERRY. BUT FOR MY MONEY--
--THAT LANE WOMAN'S THE REAL HERO!

WHILE IN AN ALLEY SOME BLOCKS AWAY...
MEGA-COOL, MAN! WHERE'D YA FIND IT?
JUST LYIN' ON THE SIDEWALK! COPS WERE SO BUSY DUKIN' IT OUT WITH THAT HALLOWEEN DUDE, THEY NEVER SAW ME SNAG IT!
OLD SAUL DOWN AT COLLECTOR'S TREASURES'LL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THIS!
YEAH! TALK ABOUT YER BOLTS FROM THE BLUE!
KEE-
RAKK!
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME...?

MOMENTS LATER...
THE ATOMIC SKULL'S BEEN HERE...
...BUT WHERE'S HE GONE?
Y-YOU OKAY, SUPERMAN? YA LOOK LIKE YER ON FIRE--!
I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW!
MAGGIE?
MS. LANE TURNED HERSELF OVER TO MARTEN TO PREVENT BLOODSHED.
HE TOOK HER WITH HIM--
--THAT WAY. WITH YOUR SPEED, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE CATCHING THEM.
"NO TROUBLE"?
TIME WAS, I'D FLY AROUND USING X-RAY VISION TO SPOT LOIS.
BUT NOW I CAN'T FLY! AND WHEN I TRY TO LOOK THROUGH THINGS--
--IT'S LIKE SEEING DOZENS OF SPECTRA AT ONCE, WITHOUT KNOWING--
--HUH? THAT GLOW, HEADING IN THE DIRECTION MAGGIE POINTED!

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THE EXCITING X-PATROL #1

They're All-New, All-Different, and All-Doomed if Niles Cable, Elasti-Girl, Ferro Man, the Beastling and Dial H.U.S.K. can't escape the Brood Pit!

SUPER-SOLDIER: MAN OF WAR #1

Sgt. Rock and his Howling Commandos continue to wage war against the AXIS powers. But will they survive Major Zemo and the War Wheel?

It's a battle before time on the living dinosaur island of Krakoa as Chemodam and Quasimodox return to put the Magnetic Men on the endangered species list.

MAGNETIC MEN FEATURING MAGNETO #1

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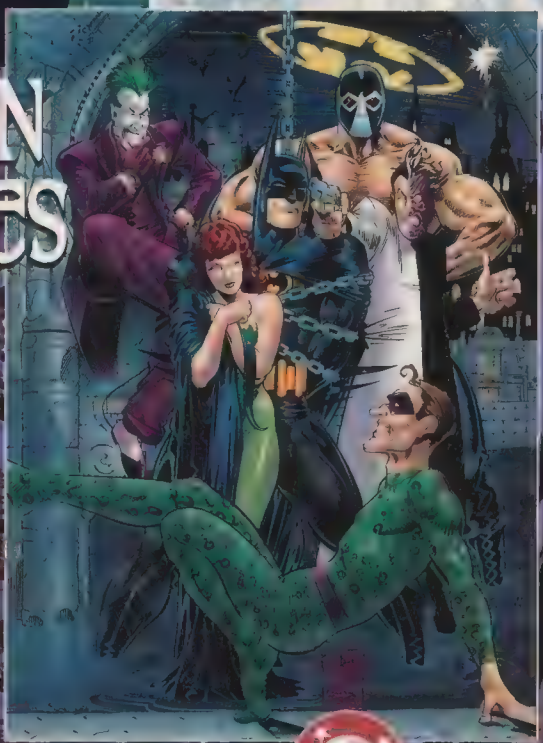
By Alan Grant, Norm Breyfogle, Joe Rubinstein, and Kevin Nowlan.

the BATMAN CHRONICLES GALLERY



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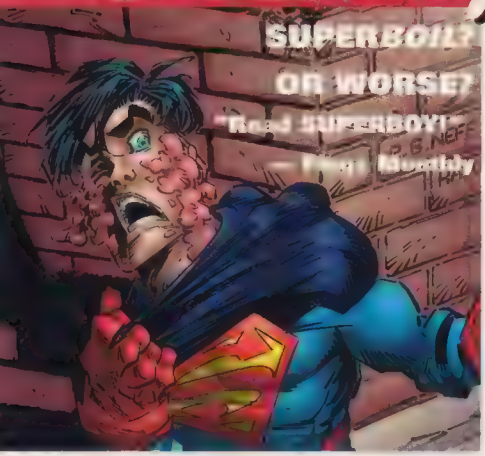
OFFICER, I NEED YOUR HELP! GET IN!
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO DRIVE!
NEW VISION MUST BE BASED ON ENERGY, LIKE THE REST OF MY CHANGING POWERS! AND APPARENTLY, THAT LETS ME DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ENERGY SIGNATURES--
--LIKE THE RADIATION TRAIL LEFT BY THE ATOMIC SKULL!
ALL I NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW THAT TRAIL TO ITS SOURCE, AND--
--NO! TRUCK PASSING THROUGH THE ENERGY STREAK! RADIATION TRAIL IS BREAKING UP!
SCREEEEEEEEEE
POLICE
STOP!

WHAT THE--?! I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT STOPPING THE TRUCK, AND SOME SORT OF BEAM SHOT FROM MY HAND!
MAGNETISM?
CAN I PULL THE TRUCK BACK?
KRRIINNKK!
BLAST! CAN'T CONTROL IT! ALL I DID WAS RIP THE REAR DOORS OFF! BUT...
...THE SYMBOLS ON THOSE METAL DRUMS--?
SOON...
SURE 'NUFF, SUPERMAN. THOSE GUYS WERE ILLEGALLY HAULING NUCLEAR WASTE THROUGH THE CITY. GOOD THING THEY CROSSED OUR PATH!
NO. NOT A GOOD THING.
RADIATION MUST HAVE "POLLUTED" THE ATOMIC SKULL'S TRAIL, DISSIPATED THE ENERGY. I CAN'T SEE IT ANYMORE.
LOIS IS IN THE HANDS OF A MAD-MAN. AND WITHOUT MY OLD POWERS--
--I'M HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

I HATE BEING HELPLESS!
ZELDA, MY SWEET. YOU LOOK... TROUBLED.
WHAT CAN I DO TO EASE YOUR SORROW, CALM YOUR HEART?
SHALL I SING FOR YOU? PERHAPS RECITE SOME MILLAY? THAT ALWAYS BROUGHT YOU COMFORT BEFORE.
O, MY ETERNAL LOVE, IT PAINS ME SO TO SEE YOU FROWN!
HE... HE'S NOT EVIL. NOT AT HIS CORE.
IF I CAN JUST REACH THE MAN INSIDE...!
UH, DARLING, I--I MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE BETTER IF YOU'D TAKE ME TO AN ARMY BASE.
I MEAN, WE'D BOTH BE SAFE THERE, AND--
NEVER! YOU'RE TOO INNOCENT TO REALIZE THE AUTHORITIES ARE ELECTRON'S DUPES!
AND I MUST REMAIN FREE TO PROTECT THIS CITY FROM THOSE WHO WOULD TURN IT INTO A DEN OF DEPRAVITY!
NO, HE'S NOT EVIL...
...JUST SERIOUSLY NUTS!

WHILE AT THE GLOBAL WHEELS TRANSPORT COMPANY...
AHHH, NUTS!
WE WERE PAID REAL GOOD TA MOVE THEM TUBS O' NOOKLUR GOO THE FASTEST WAY POSSIBLE.
BUT, BOSS, WE STILL GOT THREE TRUCKLOADS O' THAT STUFF SITTIN' IN THE STORE-HOUGE!
BUT MY SNITCH AT THE PRECINCT HOUSE SAYS THAT DRIVER THEY CAUGHT'S READY TA NAME NAMES!
NOT FOR LONG...!
...LOOKS KINDA WEIRD...
...MAYBE HE'S SICK...
I HATE STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING, WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO ACT.
I SHOULD BE OUT FINDING LOIS! BUT HOW, BLAST IT?
HOW--?!
--WHOA! M-MY HAND! IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH THAT COMPUTER!

WATCH this space



MARZ ATTACKS!: Ron, that is, takes every Wednesday night off from scripting SUPERBOY (where this month the 3-part "Meltdown" begins) and GREEN LANTERN (see below) and plays volleyball at a nearby high school gym with new GL inker **Terry Austin, Jim Starlin, Bernie Wrightson, Fred Hembeck, Andy Smith** and **Todd DeZago!** There have been occasional guest appearances by **Joe Staton** and **Dan Green,** as well! No truth to the rumor that Ron will be writing the SUGAR & ***SPIKE!*** revival.

DRAW, SHERIFF! Trevor Von Eeden, who's pencilling an upcoming BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT with writer **C.J. Henderson**, was pulled over for a **minor** traffic infraction. The officer saw a page of art in Trev's car featuring **Sgt. Bullock** (said story is set in the **past**, pitting then **Lieutenant James Gordon** against the ever-smiling **Joker**). Trevor innocently explained what he did for a living and promised to send the officer a copy of the comic. The understanding member of New York's Finest (an offshoot of our WORLD'S FINEST, we're sure) let Trevor go with but a warning. BUT... (and there's ALWAYS a "But")... if Von Eeden **doesn't** deliver on his promise, LEGENDS assistant editor **Chuck Kim** gets sent up the river! Hey! It's the **law!**

THE "B" IS FOR BAT: Akiva Goldsman, writer of *Batman Forever* **and** the upcoming *Batman & Robin* movie, was in the DC offices recently to talk to editors **Scott J. Peterson** and **Jordan B. Gorfinkel!** Akiva was gathering more information about DC's characters for the "B & R" script, which they've just about finished shooting. Scott J. and Gorf have been working closely with the research department at **Joel Schumacher**'s office in Burbank (Mr. Schumacher is ONLY the director of the aforementioned Bat-Movies) in an effort to make this movie the BEST of the Belfry! Hmmmm... Uma Thurman is playing Poison Ivy in "B & R"... so, any time now we're sure to start hearing those immortal words: "Uma? Gorf! Gorf? Uma!"

And now—because **the Riddler**'s threatened us—the **solution** to the WTS crossword puzzle that we printed in Watch This Space #33.

HEY! What brings YOU here?: Another tidbit from the past, here... one of the reasons **why** Executive Editor **Mike Carlin** will sign anything you present him with legibly and clearly! At one of the legendary Phil Seuling-run Comic Conventions in New York (early 1970s, continuity buffs) boasted an appearance by **THE** Jack Kirby! Young Mike C brought ALL his DC Fourth World #1s (NEW GODS! MISTER MIRACLE! DEMON! Etc!) to get the King's signature on 'em! The cigar-chomping, Ben Grimm-like **Mr. Kirby signed with a smile** and the young Exec Ed ran home to show his dad the cool autograph he'd gotten! Unfortunately Mr. Carlin Senior claimed the signature looked like it said **Jackie Ruby**, and he questioned the authenticity of said signatures! There was and is no doubt that the one and only Jack Kirby signed Mike's first editions—but Carlini never forgot and strives to sign with clarity to this day! Try him out on the convention circuit this year if ya don't believe us!

READ THIS SPACE! FLASH #124 ■ ACTION COMICS #732 ■ CATWOMAN #44
ESSENTIAL VERTIGO: SWAMP THING #6 ■ LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #93 ■ ROBIN #40
SUPERBOY & THE RAVERS #8 ■ TEEN TITANS #7 ■ HELLBLAZER #112 ■ HITMAN #13
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #91 ■ SCARE TACTICS #5 ■ INVISIBLES VOLUME 2 #3
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HARDWARE #50 ■ JLA: NEW WORLD Trade Paperback

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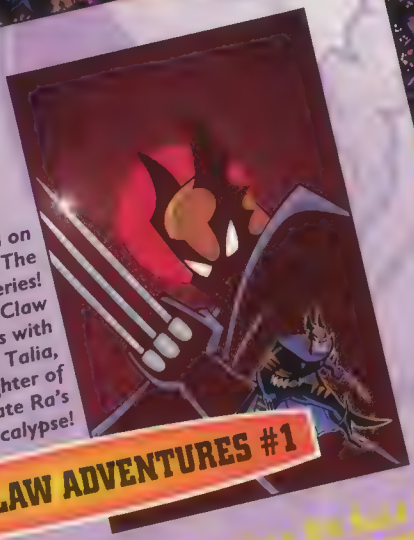
LOBO THE DUCK #1

Fraggin' feathered fury abounds as the main mallard hunts down the murderer of Spider-Boy, Super-Soldier and Dark Claw!

THORION OF THE NEW ASGODS #1

Can good prevail in the Badlands? Thorion, greatest of all the Asgods, fights to survive in battle against his brother, L'ok D'saad, while Thanoseid waits in the wings!

THE DARK CLAW ADVENTURES #1



Based on Dark Claw: The Animated Series! Dark Claw collides with Lady Talia, daughter of the late Ra's A-Pocalypse!

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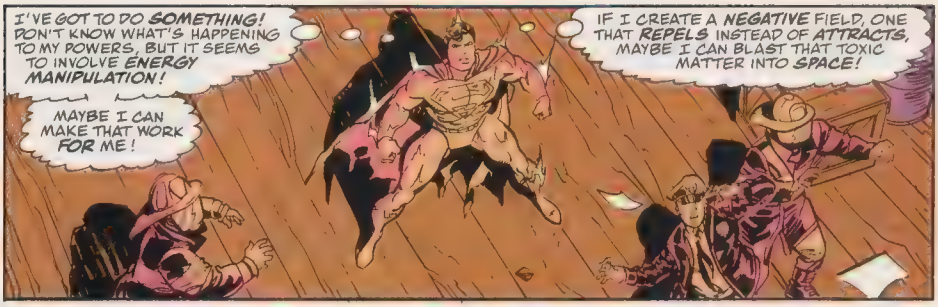
AGGHK!
WHAT'S GOING ON? M-MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S SWELLING, FILLING WITH--
--INFORMATION? I-I'M ACCESSING THE COMPUTER--
--DIRECTLY, WITH MY MIND!
BUT IT'S TOO MUCH! HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BURST!
HAVE TO STOP! CAN'T LET THIS KEEP ME FROM FINDING THE ATOMIC--
--SKULL? DATA FLOW SLOWING, FOCUSING ON THE JOE MARTEN FILES! THEY'RE GIVING ME AN IDEA!
IF THIS ALL STARTED AT A MOVIE REVIVAL HOUSE.. THEN MAYBE--
whng: ACCESS STOPPED ...ONCE I HAD... WHAT I NEEDED!
FEEL WRECKED.., AND DON'T EVEN PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THIS!
BUT AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHERE TO--
"--GO!"
KEE-RAKK!

THE ABANDONED TIVOLI THEATER...
ZELDA, MY FLOWER, IT SEEMS I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A MOMENT. I HEAR SIRENS IN THE DISTANCE.
THAT COULD MEAN SOMEONE IS IN--
--TROUBLE?
KEE-RAKK
YOU! ALIVE?
LOIS! ARE YOU OKAY?
YES! BUT ARE YOU--?
FEAR NOT, ZELDA! THE RESURRECTED FIEND WON'T HARM YOU!
NOT WHILE YOU'RE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE ATOMIC SKULL!
WHOONF
SWEEP
WARP

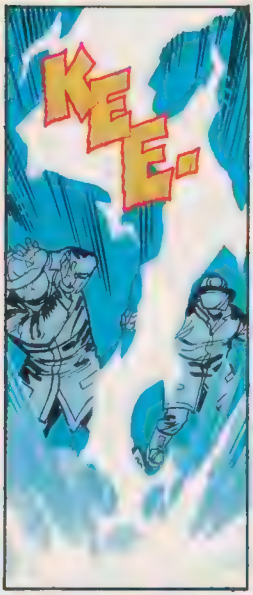
DON'T KNOW WHICH HURTS MORE: THE SKULL'S MULE-KICK PUNCH--
--OR HIS CORNY DIALOGUE!
NOW THAT WE'RE CLEAR OF ZELDA, YOU MONSTER, WE CAN FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR--
--eh? FIERY GLOW FROM THE WATERFRONT! FROM THE DIRECTION THOSE SIRENS WERE HEADING!
INNOCENTS MAY BE IN PERIL!
OUR RECKONING, ELECTRON, WILL HAVE TO WAIT!
YOU THE CAPTAIN O' THAT TUG?
I WAS!
BUT NO JOB'S WORTH MY LIFE!

NO LIVES WILL BE LOST TODAY!
WHAT THE--?
BE CALM! THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
Y-YA MEAN ;gulp; BESIDES YOU?
GETTING BETTER AT THIS --MADE IT TO THE DOCK THE FIRST TRY!
KA-RAKK!
SOME OF MY COSTUME DIDN'T, BUT...
WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
J-JUST TRYIN' TA EARN A BUCK, SOOPERMAN! GLOBAL WHEELS HIRED ME TA DUMP THOSE DRUMS O' HOT STUFF AT SEA!
MFS
BUT THE LOADIN' CREW TOSSED 'EM ABOARD SO FAST, SOME OF 'EM BROKE OPEN! THEIR INSIDES MIXED TOGETHER, AN' NOW THE REACTION'S RUNNIN' WILD!

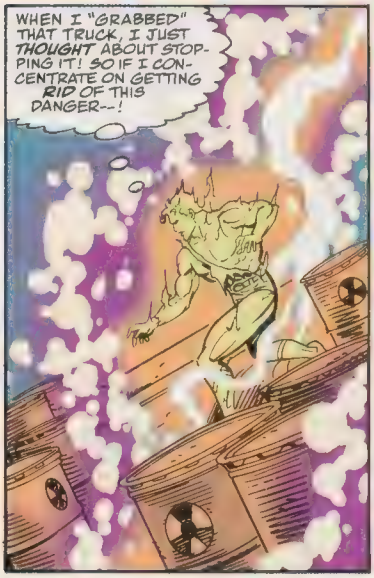
I DON'T HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH ANYMORE! CAN'T FLY! HOW CAN I--
HAVE NO FEAR--
--THE ATOMIC SKULL IS HERE!
I'LL JUST REMOVE THIS THREAT TO THE NORTH POLE UNTIL IT CAN BE--
WHA--? CAUSTIC WASTES EATING THROUGH THE TIMBERS! THE HULL'S STARTING TO CRACK!
SKULL ISN'T FAST ENOUGH! CAN'T GET THAT BARGE AWAY BEFORE IT SPLITS OPEN!
AND I CAN'T DO A BLOODY THING ABOUT IT!
THANK HEAVEN! CLARK LOOKS TATTERED, BUT INTACT!
BUT THE ATOMIC SKULL IS STILL--
MS. LANE? MY NAME'S HORTON, FROM S.T.A.R. LABS.
AND I'M AFRAID WE NEED YOUR HELP!


I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY POWERS, BUT IT SEEMS TO INVOLVE ENERGY MANIPULATION!
MAYBE I CAN MAKE THAT WORK FOR ME!
IF I CREATE A NEGATIVE FIELD, ONE THAT REPELS INSTEAD OF ATTRACTS, MAYBE I CAN BLAST THAT TOXIC MATTER INTO SPACE!

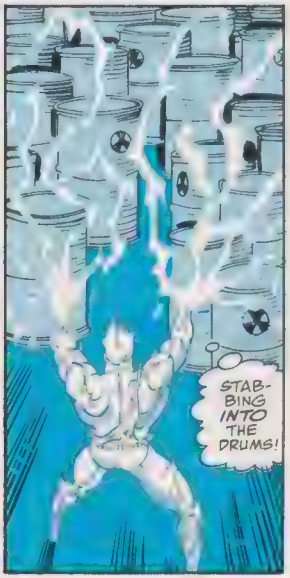
DON'T KNOW IF I CAN, BUT I KNOW I HAVE TO TRY!


KE-E-

RACKK!


WHEN I "GRABBED" THAT TRUCK, I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT STOPPING IT! SO IF I CONCENTRATE ON GETTING RID OF THIS DANGER--!

WHA--? ENERGY FROM M-MY FINGERS! ELONGATING! SPIKING OUT!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I-I'M NOT SENDING THE RADIATION AWAY! I'M TAKING IT INTO MY OWN BODY, A-ALL AT ONCE!
F-FEELS LIKE RAZORS RACING THROUGH MY VEINS!
CHIEF! W-WHAT'S HE DOIN'?
I DUNNO, SIMPSON! BUT APPARENTLY--
--IT WORKED!
EVEN I CAN'T KEEP THIS TOGETHER MUCH LONGER! I MUST SET IT DOWN!
I DON'T GET IT, CHIEF WARNER!
THE WHOLE BARGE IS CLEAN! NOT ONE RAD IN THE LOT!
I... MAY HAVE JUDGED YOU TOO HARSHLY, ELECTRON! YOU'LL STILL HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES, OF COURSE, BUT--
DARLING! YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
Ah, SWEET ZELDA. I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU TO--

--OOOOAAA!
SPAK!
HRRMMM
EXCELLENT, MS. LANE! WE FIGURED YOU'D BE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO ATTACH THAT NEGATOR ROD!
IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY... HE'S HELPLESS!
AND... YOU... ZELDA?
SUPERMAN--?
YOU'D BEST KEEP BACK, LOIS. I MAY STILL POSE A THREAT TO... HUMANS.
BUT YOU--?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM. I DON'T KNOW A LOT OF THINGS. ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT IN REAL LIFE--
--STORIES DON'T ALWAYS HAVE HAPPY ENDINGS!
END

RE: ACTION

DC COMICS
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NEW YORK, NY
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SUPERMAN: THE WEDDING ALBUM

Hi, gang. Let's continue our month-long columns devoted to your comments regarding SUPERMAN: THE WEDDING ALBUM...

Dear Superman Creative Team:

You want my comments on SUPERMAN: THE WEDDING ALBUM? It was great! Very down to Earth and realistic, covering most of the pre-wedding hassles, and it was nice to see an actual wedding at the end of it all! (I was worried there for a while.) It was also good that you didn't leave out the lines we always hear: "I have never been so sure of anything in my whole life," and "She's more beautiful than I thought" (or words to that effect).

Even my non-comics-reading parents and friends enjoyed this book. The best bits were:

1) Clark gets a haircut! (YES!)

2) Bruce makes his day (in more ways than one!). I can't say I could see him in the audience, but I like to think that he was at the wedding.

3) Luthor behaving like a spoiled brat (nothing new).

4) Mxy being nice to Supes and leaving of his own free will for a change.

5) Perry makes it to the wedding (he really has lost weight).

I could go on (praising, for example, the inclusion of artwork from the late Curt Swan), but that would only steal the spotlight from the happy couple. I will, instead, join everyone else in wishing them every happiness for their future together.

RUSSELL BIRD
NARWEE, AUSTRALIA

Dear Superman Crew:

What an issue! THE WEDDING ALBUM wasn't what I expected! Lots of surprises, and a great story. What a way to reunite Lois and Clark at the start—Clark proposing to Lois at the *Daily Planet* office while she's in a torn wedding gown!

Things I liked about the bachelor/bachelorette parties: I loved the arguments between Lucy and Ella Lane, and that look on Sam Lane when he learned there would be a bridal shower for Lois! And poor Lois—she seemed to hate the shower gifts! Then there were the gatecrashers at Bibbo's Ace O' Clubs. I liked the way Bill Henderson, Jonathan Kent and Franklin Stern commented on the brawl. Like Pete Ross said, "Best bachelor party I ever went to!" (visually)

And then there were the fittings for the wedding. I loved the way Jonathan reacted to his clothes size.

I was surprised that Maxima returned to reclaim Superman. I laughed when she said, "You've lost your powers! I offered myself to a *human?!*" What a hoot! But this does sound ominous. I think we all expected her to return to her evil ways, but I sure hope not! She was a great heroine when she was with the Justice League.

It was great to see that Lois hadn't lost her *own* "powers," like her ability to defend herself from that guy who tried making a pass at her.

Some of the issue's best surprises would have to be Superman's man-to-man talk with Batman, and how he gave them the apartment Lois loved earlier. And then seeing the other heroes flying over them was great!

Mxyzptlk's talk with Clark was also really funny, as was the art. In fact, that was when I started getting used to it! I loved the way Clark grabbed Mxy up close to his face. One question, though: In what issue did Mxy learn Clark's secret identity?

Finally, there's the foldout page at the end. I loved seeing the creators on the last page! Even the kids were there. Now I know what they look like!

What a great way to marry the most popular couple in comicdom!

LOUIE FOTOPOULOS
PRESTON, AUSTRALIA

Wow—two Australian letters in this month's column! Guess they really liked the book down under!

Mxy probably pieced together Clark's identity after SUPERMAN #50 (which is a part of the KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE trade paperback that came out a few months back), Louie. Besides, he's a magical being who seems able to just pop up wherever he wants, so you can't keep too many secrets from him! In fact, I blame him for my not makin' it into that gatefold! Somehow, he found out I was in it, then changed the measurements of the page in a way that cropped me off the edge! Ah, well, I'll get even with him someday...

Dear "Wed Kryptonite" Crew:

Guess I've read one too many Marvel marriage ceremonies—I kept waiting for the villains to attack *en masse*, or at the very least for a python to pop out of the cake.

Sentimental softie that I am, I was glad to see the happy couple impetuously tie the knot

after a whirlwind six-year courtship. Waiting so long may have had one advantage: the richly characterized story took precedence over enhancements, which seem out of favor these days. Thankfully, I didn't have to choose between a chromium prenuptial agreement cover and a deluxe edition with a slice of glow-in-the-dark wedding cake.

Jimmy Olsen is Clark's best man? I suppose the old "Superman's Pal" title far outweighed any quibbles that they don't currently see much of one another, keep in touch or, in Jimmy's case, act like a "pal" (what with his biased reporting of Lori Lemaris recently). Oh well, Clark's not one to hold a grudge. Fact is, were he not deceased, he might've asked school chum Kenny "Conduit" Braverman.

Poor Perry. He gets progressively more frail with each artistic interpretation. My suspicion? It's not the therapy that's weakened him. Try all that snowmobiling in subzero weather back in MAN OF STEEL #62. Yeah, that's going to help with his recovery.

I realize Clark couldn't invite Batman to the wedding, as it might give away his secret identity, plus obscure the view of those sitting behind his pointy ears. But what about Professor Hamilton and Matrix? Well, maybe Lois invited too many comics creators and there wasn't any room. Fun to see all of you having a good time, basking in the glow of such a long-overdue happy moment (especially touching was including Jerry and Joe in the festivities). Now let's see what you folks can dream up for the next 58 years.

JOE FRANK
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

FYI, Joe—we were basking, but not in the glow of the moment; it was that glow-in-the-dark wedding cake! (Oh-h-h-h-h-h... phosphorescent goodness... sweeeeet...)

As we explained in ADVENTURES #541, Professor Hamilton couldn't make the wedding simply because Superman left him behind at the Fortress and had no way of getting to him while without powers. (D'OH!) As for Matrix, she's had problems in her own book, ever since Supergirl and Linda Danvers merged together into one body! Lois and Clark had no idea where she was, and they didn't know where to send the invite.

Dear DC:

I just finished reading SUPERMAN: THE WEDDING ALBUM, and I must compliment you on a job well done. So many "special events" in comics involve death, destruction and mayhem of cataclysmic proportions that it was a pleasure to have the "event of the century" be a celebration of life and love. And what a great tribute to all of Clark and Lois's friends, the ones in and out of costume, as well as the talented creators who have told their stories.

But inasmuch as this is a thank-you for such a wonderful book, I must thank you all for Superman himself. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be here today.

My parents met on a blind date in September of 1969. That October, they attended a Halloween party together. My mother dressed like a cat, and my father went as a businessman wearing a suit and tie. A rather boring costume, until midnight, when he took off the suit and revealed the Superman costume underneath. Later that night, he proposed, and she accepted. On June 12, 1996, my parents, John and Bernice Petersen, celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

I'm the oldest of their three children, and to commemorate the night they were engaged, I was named Jonathan Clark. My first name is a fancier version of my father's name (and coincidentally, the name of Pa Kent), and my middle name is after Clark Kent.

I, myself, got engaged on New Year's Eve, to a woman who gave me a Superman watch after we had been dating for two months. My fiancée, Deanna, and I were heartbroken after reading of Lois and Clark ending their engagement. But now all is right with the world once more, and we can look forward to our wedding next April (Superman may be able to plan a wedding in a few days, but we mere mortals need more time.)

Thank you again for the wedding we've all been looking forward to for so long. It was well worth the wait.

JONATHAN CLARK PETERSEN
UNION, NJ

And thank you, Jonathan, for a truly touching letter. We're very happy that Superman has been such a positive influence on you and your loved ones' lives, and we applaud your parents' good taste in names. By the way, Clark was Martha Kent's maiden name, and Petersen sounds like (but spelled differently) BATMAN Editor Scott Peterson. For having the "World's Finest" name, we proudly present you with this month's Baldy award! (Three guesses who it's named after!)

—Mike McAvennie
Nothin' special about the name. I just happen ta like it.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

IN ONE WEEK: Ceritak hits Metropolis in MAN OF STEEL #67! Actually, he hits our radically altering Superman, too, but hey, Supes hits him back! It's chaos, carnage and all sorts of craziness from Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke in seven days!

IN TWO WEEKS: Superman's in dire straits over his wild new powers, and Metropolis may suffer for it in SUPERMAN #123! That is, unless...nah, we wouldn't dare...would we? In fourteen days, Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein do a heckuva lot more than just change Supes's hairstyle, and we have an enhanced cover (but no enhanced price) to show you!

IN THREE WEEKS: Metallo comes to town, lookin' to see what the big deal is about Superman these days. Boy, is he in for a rude awakenin'! You will be, too, when Karl Kesel, Stuart Immonen and Jose Marzan, Jr. bring you ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #546 in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: Ding-Ding! Round Two of the Metallo/New Superman fight, with the Ray actin' as a special advisor in Big Blue's camp! Sluggin' it out in twenty-eight days are David Michelinie, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier!

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Superman gets ready to knock heads with the Atomic Skull on this month's cover by Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and Patrick Martin. Now, that's usin' your noggin!

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